

# LEHI TABERNACLE CORNERSTONE

**Constructed: 1901**

**Address: Lehi Stake Center (200 North Center)**

**Present owner: LDS Church**

During an LDS Church youth conference held several years ago, the original Lehi Tabernacle cornerstone was returned to the site where it had been from 1901 until 1962.

To gain an appreciation of the Tabernacle cornerstone, one must learn of its creators. Englishman Arthur Bradder (born in 1855), at the age of thirteen began a two-year stone-cutting apprenticeship which he left because of an abusive master. He then traveled about England, Wales, and France plying the skills he had learned.

Working in Liverpool, England, during 1876 Bradder was able to save enough money to transport his family to America. In Salt Lake City in 1897 he formed a partnership with his son-in-law, Joseph J. Gill. After being told there would be no stonecutting competition in Lehi, the duo moved to town and established the *Lehi Stone, Marble and Granite Works* (later *Arthur Bradder & Company*) on the northeast corner of Fourth North and First East.

The first major contract Bradder and Gill obtained was for the decorative stone on the downtown People's Co-op building (189 West Main). Presumably they also did the stone work on the *New log Cabin Saloon* (155 West Main), Merrihew Building (98 West Main), Ross Block (86 West Main), and the main building of the uptown People's Co-op (151 East State)--all built between 1902 and 1908.

Another example of the fine stone-cutting abilities of Bradder and Gill is the Lehi Pioneer Monument, on the Memorial building grounds.

Despite the welcome commercial work, the majority of Arthur Bradder & Co.'s work was marble and granite cemetery monuments. The signature *A. Bradder* can be read near the bottom of dozens of white marble headstones in the Lehi Cemetery.

The largest local project for Bradder and Gill was the Lehi Tabernacle. Because some stones used in that building were so huge, weighing several tons, the stonecutters relocated their business to the yard of the uptown railroad depot in August 1901. Huge gang saws were set up in the shop and the cutting began.

The cost of the sixty-dollar cornerstone was met by the “nickel fund” contributions of twelve hundred Sunday School children and their teachers. LDS Church President Lorenzo Snow was invited to lay the cornerstone, but because of illness was unable to come to Lehi. He was represented by his son, LeRoi Snow.

The program that long ago- 14 September 1901, began with serenading by the Lehi Silver Band from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Promptly at 2:00, the band performed an opening number. The congregation then sang, “All Hail the Glorious Day.” Invocation was then offered by Patriarch James Moyle. The Lehi Sunday School Choir then sang the popular Mormon hymn, “The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning.”

The cornerstone was then lifted into place by a huge boom and local photographer William Asher took the photo you see here. Former Lehi Ward Bishop Thomas Cutler then ceremoniously wielded a silver trowel which had been hand-crafted by Lehi silversmith Abraham Gudmundsen.

Before the cornerstone was sealed up, a metal box, filled with numerous photographs, books, newspapers, and other artifacts, was placed in a hollowed-out cavity of the stone. A selection by the Gaddie Orchestra then followed, after which LeRoi Snow addressed the congregation.

The Lehi Tabernacle Choir then sang an anthem entitled “Gratitude.” This song was followed by addresses from the Alpine Stake Presidency: Stephen L. Chipman, James L. Clark, and Abel J. Evans (Lehi Stake was not created until 1928). A selection by the Smuin Quadrille Band was followed by a speech from Bishop Thomas R. Cutler. The concluding song by the congregation was “High on a Mountain Top.” Andrew R. Anderson gave the benediction.

Sixty-one years later, in 1962, the Tabernacle was beaten to a pulp by a massive wrecker’s ball and unceremoniously hauled away to various dumping sites. The cornerstone was salvaged by the Robert White family. They donated

it to Lehi Stake for inclusion in the monument situated on the south end of the Lehi Stake Center property.